

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): [[An]] A mobile information communication device which supports information exchange and fostering of human relations between a plurality of users, comprising:

a ~~radio~~ wireless communication unit which transmits and receives ~~radio~~ wireless communication data;

a metadata storage unit which stores, in the mobile communications device, metadata relating to activities and interests of a user of the mobile communication device; and

a central control unit which manages the storage of metadata in said metadata storage unit, wherein said central control unit:

partitions said metadata storage unit by security level and category,

stores metadata received through said ~~radio~~ wireless communication unit in a corresponding partition of the metadata storage unit based on matching the received metadata with a security level and/or category predetermined by the user, and

supplies, in response to an external access request, metadata from the metadata storage unit that matches a security level available to the external access request ~~or that matches the security level available and category requested.~~

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The information communication device according to Claim 1, wherein

said metadata is information in the form of metadata, equivalent to a log providing information on locations visited by the user.

Claim 3 (Original): The information communication device according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a user input unit for the user of the device to write metadata directly into said metadata storage unit.

Claim 4 (Original): The information communication device according to Claim 1, wherein

said central control unit sets a higher security level for data transmitted through a relatively secure communication path and a lower security level for other transmitted data.

Claim 5 (Original): The information communication device according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a virtual person growing means which grows a virtual person corresponding to the user based on the user's history information accumulated in said metadata storage unit.

Claim 6 (Original): The information communication device according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a format setting unit which converts the format of metadata taken out of said metadata storage unit as requested by a requesting party.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A method for information communication which supports information exchange and fostering of human relations, comprising:

receiving metadata relating to activities and interests of a user of ~~the~~ a mobile information communication device via a ~~radio~~ wireless communication ~~using an~~ of the mobile information communication device;

storing the received metadata in a partitioned storage unit of the mobile information communication device based on matching the received metadata with a security level and/or category predetermined by the user; and

supplying, in response to an external access request, metadata from the partitioned metadata storage unit that matches a security level available to the external access request ~~or that matches the security level available and category requested~~, wherein

the metadata is stored in the partition of the storage unit based on the security level and/or category of the metadata.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The method for information communication according to Claim 7, wherein

said metadata is information in the form of metadata, equivalent to a log providing information on locations visited by the user.

Claim 9 (Original): The method for information communication according to Claim 7, wherein

in said metadata storing step, data directly written by the user is stored.

Claim 10 (Original): The method for information communication according to Claim 7, further comprising:

a security level setting step in which a higher security level is set for data transmitted through a relatively secure communication path and a lower security level is set for other transmitted data.

Claim 11 (Original): The method for information communication according to Claim 7, further comprising:

a virtual person growing step in which a virtual person corresponding to the user is grown based on the user's history information accumulated in said metadata memory.

Claim 12 (Original): The method for information communication according to Claim 7, further comprising:

a format setting step in which the format of metadata taken out of said metadata memory is converted as requested by a requesting party.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): An information exchange and human relation fostering support system for supporting information exchange and fostering of human relations between a plurality of users in the virtual world, comprising:

a plurality of mobile information communication devices each including:

a wireless communication unit which transmits and receives wireless communication data,

a metadata storage unit which stores, in the mobile communications device, metadata relating to activities and interests of a user of the mobile communication device, and

a central control unit which manages the storage of metadata in said metadata storage unit; and

at least one stationary communication device configured to acquire metadata from each mobile information communication device via a wireless transmission, compare the acquired metadata and display the result of the comparison.

~~a metadata transmitting means which provides user terminals with metadata that corresponds to a security level and at least one category at different locations in the physical world;~~

~~a metadata acquiring means which retrieves metadata that matches the security level and category of the request from user terminals;~~

~~a matching means which performs matching among pieces of metadata acquired from two or more user terminals; and~~

~~a result of matching presenting means which presents the result of the matching to the user terminals from which the matched pieces of metadata was acquired.~~

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The information exchange and human relation fostering support system according to Claim 13, wherein

said metadata is information in the form of metadata, equivalent to a log providing information on locations visited by the user.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The information exchange and human relation fostering support system according to Claim 13, wherein

said ~~metadata acquiring means~~ at least one stationary communication device acquires metadata in accordance with the highest security level in those set by the users concerned.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): An information exchange and human relation fostering supporting method for supporting information exchange and fostering of human relations on the virtual world, comprising:

transmitting metadata to a plurality of mobile communications devices at a plurality of different physical locations, the metadata relating to activities and interests of a user of each mobile communication device;

authenticating each mobile communication device within range of a stationary communication device with the stationary communication device;

uploading the metadata from the authenticated mobile communication devices to the stationary communication device;

comparing the uploaded metadata to find matching activities and interests;

displaying the matching activities and interests and corresponding users discovered by the comparing;

deleting the uploaded metadata from the stationary communications device

~~a metadata transmitting step in which metadata of respective security level and category is provided to user terminals here and there in the real world;~~

~~a metadata acquiring step in which metadata matching in terms of security level and category is taken out of user terminals;~~

~~a matching step in which matching is performed among pieces of metadata acquired from two or more user terminals; and~~

~~a result of matching presenting step in which the result of the matching is presented.~~

Claim 17 (Original): The information exchange and human relation fostering support method according to Claim 16, wherein

said metadata is information in the form of metadata, equivalent to a log stating that the user visits a place and what the place is.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The information exchange and human relation fostering support method according to Claim 16, wherein

in said ~~metadata-acquiring~~ uploading step, metadata is acquired in accordance with the highest security level in those set by the users concerned.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A computer program which is written in a computer-readable format so that information communication for supporting information exchange and fostering of human relations is executed on a computer system, the program comprising:

receiving metadata relating to activities and interests of a user of a mobile information communication device via a wireless communication of the mobile information communication device;

storing the received metadata in a partitioned storage unit of the mobile information communication device based on matching the received metadata with a security level and/or category predetermined by the user; and

supplying, in response to an external access request, metadata from the partitioned metadata storage unit that matches a security level available to the external access request, wherein

the metadata is stored in the partition of the storage unit based on the security level and/or category of the metadata

~~a metadata storing step in which metadata acquired by radio communication is stored in an area matching in terms of security level and/or category in metadata memory; and~~

~~a metadata reading step in which, in response to an external access request, metadata is taken out of a storage area matching in terms of security level and/or category in metadata memory and supplied.~~

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): A computer program which is written in a computer-readable format so that processing for supporting information exchange and fostering of human relations on the virtual world is executed on a computer system, the program comprising:

transmitting metadata to a plurality of mobile communications devices at a plurality of different physical locations, the metadata relating to activities and interests of a user of each mobile communication device;

authenticating each mobile communication device within range of a stationary communication device with the stationary communication device;

uploading the metadata from the authenticated mobile communication devices to the stationary communication device;

comparing the uploaded metadata to find matching activities and interests;

displaying the matching activities and interests and corresponding users discovered by the comparing;

deleting the uploaded metadata from the stationary communications device

~~a metadata-transmitting step in which metadata of respective security level and category is provided to user terminals here and there in the real world;~~

~~a metadata-acquiring step in which metadata matching in terms of security level and category is taken out of user terminals;~~

~~a matching step in which matching is performed among pieces of metadata acquired from two or more user terminals; and~~

~~a result of matching-presenting step in which the result of the matching is presented.~~